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instruction in agriculture in the schools started for the depressed classes. I hope the hon. Mover will now withdraw his motion."

*Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai :—" Mr. President, I carefully listened to the arguments advanced by the several speakers on this motion. The hon. the Finance Member expressed the difficulty of finding funds for the facilities sought to be given by this resolution. He stated that in Malabar there are other communities who are also living by agricultural labour. But as far as I can see and understand a large proportion of agricultural labour in that district is drawn from the Adi-Dravida community itself. As regards the advice given by Mr. J. A. Davis that the Nilgiris should be taken as the basis for an understanding of the depressed classes question, I may say that the rural parts should be taken as the basis. However, Sir, in view of the assurance given by the hon. the Home Member, I beg to withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The following motion which stood in the name of Mr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva was not moved and was deemed to have been withdrawn :—

This Council recommends to the Government the desirability of reducing the Revenue Divisions in Cuddapah district by one.

CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS DEVOTED FOR RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

*Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that 1 p.m.

'*This Council recommends to the Government that orders be passed that no building devoted for religious worship should be extended or brought into existence newly without the previous sanction of the District Magistrate*'.

" In view of the several communal strifes that are coming into existence in several places and in view of the several problems that the Government are made to face in regard to these communal strifes, I cherished the idea of bringing before this House a motion of this nature. Though several times I gave notice of it unfortunately I could not get it in the ballot successfully; but this time and what is more satisfactory is now that the proceedings of the Council are progressing with so much rapidity that my resolution has been reached much earlier than I expected. Having had occasion to look into the practical difficulties experienced in my own district and other districts also that are arising out of communal strifes between the Christians and the Hindus or the Muslims and the Hindus, I have come before this House with this motion and I commend this for the consideration of this House as well as of the Government.

" I will now place before you briefly the reasons why I want that such a resolution should be given effect to. You know, Sir, that music before religious institutions is a very grave problem of the day. In certain districts, especially in my own district, there is a great deal of agitation in the minds of the Muslims and of the Hindus regarding this problem. The Government had to interfere in several instances to avoid disturbances and difficulties. Suppose a temple is brought into existence very near a mosque in a village where the Hindu community is preponderatingly large and if music is then played within the temple it will be a very great disadvantage to the Muslims

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that resort to that particular mosque for religious worship. Putting it conversely if a mosque is brought into existence or within a radius of fifty yards from the temple and if music is played within the temple, it will be equally objectionable to the people that resort to the mosque for religious worship.

"I will give you, Sir, a couple of concrete instances to prove my case. A few years back in my own district in a village called Allur a mosque has been built by the side of the road and when it was under construction the Hindus of the place complained that in due course of time there will be difficulties when processions of the Hindus pass by that road. But the Muslims assured the Hindus that no such difficulties will be felt and that music may be played at any time of the day and that no objection will be taken to that. The mosque was allowed to be built and when it was put into use after it was constructed processions with music were obstructed and this year there was some difficulty in quelling disturbances and notices under section 144 had to be issued. That is one instance. In another place, Kodavalur, a mosque was built on the roadside in a public site belonging to the Government without any permission being taken from the Government and thenceforth the Muslims began to object to processions being taken on the road, because the mosque was built within fifty yards of the road. When the mosque was being built the Magistracy opened its eyes to the difficulties that will arise thereafter and issued a notice under section 144; but even before the notice was served the mosque was constructed and when once the building was utilized for religious worship it was made impossible for Government to restrict the activities of the Muslims, or remove the mosque.

"In these circumstances I would say that the religious sentiments of either the Hindus or those of the Muslims are always at stake. And there is every possibility, at every moment, for the Muslims and the Hindus coming into conflict.

"Then, Sir, instances are also not wanting to show how in certain places Christians also have disallowed or objected to processions with music, particularly on Sundays in the morning and in the evening, when the Christian congregation meets for religious worship. They had objected to any processions being taken that way even if the congregation were out of the radius of fifty yards from the church. I had a personal experience of the matter and the music had to be stopped at that meeting hour and the procession had to pass without music before the church. This shows that even the Christian community had taken the opportunity to object to such processions. To avoid such things my proposal is that the District Magistrate must be empowered to go into the question of erection or extension of all buildings to be devoted for public worship, whether it is a temple or a church so that he might find out ways and means before giving permission, for the prevention of disturbances or troubles. At present I feel that the Government are not strong enough to dissuade the people from bringing into existence new places of religious worship that would eventually prove to be a constant source of trouble to the people of the place.

"Some time back I put a question to the hon. the Law Member whether precautions should not be taken before new places of religious worship are brought into existence to avoid future difficulties; and the hon. the Law Member was pleased to give the following reply: 'when difficulties arise precautions will be taken.' I thought that I was not properly understood and

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that sort of reply prompted me to bring this resolution before the House, so that we may discuss all the aspects of this important question and also see that no community is at a disadvantage and that all communities, whether Christians or Mussalmans or Hindus, might pull on more satisfactorily and peacefully in their religious activities. I may also assure that this will not be an extra burden on the Collector or the Magistrate for I am sure, if things are let off as they are now allowed to go, such difficulties will arise in each and every village and the consequence will be greater attention will have to be devoted in due course of time by the Magistracy to quell disturbances. All that I want to see is that precaution might be taken to quell future disturbances and I think that this will solve the question to a very great extent.

"I may at this stage appeal to all sections and communities of this House that I have not been actuated by any sectarian motive, but I move this resolution with the pure motive to avoid all future difficulties and troubles of communal strife. I appeal to this House to look at this question from a cosmopolitan point of view and pass this resolution so that Government may take the necessary steps in the matter and see that in future such troubles do not arise."

Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO :—"In seconding this resolution I wish to say that there is one fact to which every Member of this House should pay attention and that is this. There is communal trouble all over India and this is considered to be the great impediment in the path towards self-government or Swaraj. As the hon. the Mover of this resolution has pointed out, it is but fair for the Government as well as for every section of this House to see that communal strife arising out of the question of processions with music before churches or mosques is soon put an end to. Hence it is but right for everybody to support this resolution in the spirit in which it was moved. I request hon. Members of this House to support this resolution and pass it unanimously."

K. ABDUL HYE SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Sir, I beg to move that *in line* 2 after *the word* '*worship*' *the words* '*other than Muhammadan mosques*' be inserted. 1–15 p.m.

"Sir, any measure calculated to interfere with the religious affairs and beliefs should not be encouraged. I was wondering what prompted the Mover of this resolution to bring forward a resolution like this and the whole thing is now clear. I understand that he has made this a communal affair. The whole thing has been argued on the basis of the communal differences between the two communities. I appeal to my hon. Friend to consider whether it is right on his part to bring forward a resolution of this kind, and whether it would not accentuate communal differences, and whether it would not do more harm than good. If my hon. Friend does not agree with me and withdraw this resolution, I request that my amendment may be taken into consideration."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"For want of a seconder the amendment falls through."

*Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"Sir, I move that *after the word* '*worship*' *the words* '*other than Christian churches*' be inserted.

"I followed carefully the speech of my hon. Friend and I know that he is actuated by the best of intentions, and that his desire is to bring about peace and put an end to communal quarrels in this province. He spoke of

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the disturbances likely to be caused by the playing of music before mosques and temples and gave instances of such troubles. In the course of his speech, in only one place he said that even Christians objected to music. Sir, this is a revelation to me. I know that this question of music does not at all arise in connection with the Christian church. We have very short services in the morning time and still shorter services in the evening. Apparently in the one or two instances mentioned by my hon. Friend, some members of the Christian community objected to the playing of music for a prolonged period in front of the church thereby drowning the voice of the preacher and preventing the worshippers from saying their prayers. If some such objection had been raised, and if a request was made for stopping music for a few minutes that should not have been construed into a cause for misunderstanding between the Christians and the other communities. Secondly, Sir, the Christians form a minority community and especially in the Telugu districts they are a microscopic minority. As a rule, their churches are situated in out-of-the-way places. They take no delight in building their churches in conspicuous places for the sake of show. On the other hand they build their churches very near their houses. The depressed class Christians live far away from the town; even some caste Christians are not generally found living in the midst of the Hindus or near the Agraharams and so on. I do not think therefore that I can even imagine of such disturbances arising in the case of the Christians. This rule will work a hardship on the Christians. They are as a rule poor and 90 per cent of them if not 99 per cent of them depend for their education on the local missionaries who raise the money by alms in Europe. How is it possible for these peace-loving, poor, ignorant and docile Christians to give trouble? If there have been some instances as pointed out by my hon. Friend the Mover of the resolution, then the best course would have been to enquire into the matter and settle it by mutual consent without recourse to the District Magistrate. It would then appear that the service was disturbed or that the congregation was not able to follow the preacher and that a request was made to stop the music for a few minutes only. The resolution states that no such building should be extended as if extension could not be had where the congregation grew in numbers or brought into existence without the previous sanction of the District Magistrate. Of course the District Magistrate will use his discretion. But what about the subordinate officers and other local magnates especially in rural areas where Christians are very few and their influence very negligible? I am sure that this resolution, if accepted, will work hardship, and will seriously interfere with freedom of worship. Therefore, I do not see why my friend should include the Indian Christian churches. By accepting my amendment he will clinch the issue and will better succeed in his object.

Mr. D. Thomas :—"I second the amendment."

The hon. the President :—"The amendment is for the discussion of the House."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai :—"Sir, I do not know whether I would be in order in moving an amendment to exclude Hindu temples. I expected hon. Members of all denominations to accept a resolution of this kind, knowing as they did that this question of playing music before mosques, temples and churches has been a source of trouble to the communities. My friend spoke of the tolerant, peace-loving and docile nature of the Christian

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community. I have no doubt they are; but there are exceptions. What about the riot in the Ettayapuram Zamin where very good Roman Catholic Christians were involved? When one community says, 'You should not play music before our place of worship,' the other community thinks it a disgrace if they do not do so. In some places there is a rule that music should not be played before Christian churches, or mosques or temples. This is due to an order passed by Lord Hobart when he was Governor of Madras. During his time there were very grave disorders in some places and to put an end to this trouble it was ordered that no music should be played before mosques or temples or churches. My hon. Friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, spoke of the Christians as a very docile people and a very good people. What about the Christians in Europe and the fighting between the Roman Catholics and the Protestants in Ireland? A rule like this is absolutely necessary in order to safeguard public tranquillity and I think my hon. Friend would withdraw his amendment and vote for the resolution."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I did not want to take part in this debate. But after hearing my hon. Friend, Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar, for whose opinion I have got great regard, I thought it necessary to say what I feel in the matter and speak of my experience in another place regarding this matter. I may say, Sir, that the rule which is recommended to be framed by this resolution, is one which already exists in the State of Travancore. There the rule is that no place of religious worship may be erected without the sanction, not of the District Magistrate, but of the Government. Whether it is a place of worship of the Christians, or of the Hindus, or of the Muhammadans or of the Jews—there is no Jewish community in this Presidency, but there is such a community in Travancore,—the sanction of the Government has to be obtained. The Government receive the application of the community concerned and send it on to the District Magistrate for report; he goes to the locality and inspects the site of the proposed building with special reference to the distance of the site from the buildings of worship of the other communities. After taking all things into consideration, the district authorities report to the Government and their recommendation is adopted except in exceptional cases. In exceptional cases Government make other enquiries also. I submit that this rule is working very well there. The existence of a rule like this is one reason for the absence of any religious troubles in Travancore. There is no reason whatever to support the amendment of Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar. In the Travancere State, all the Christians, whether they are Roman Catholics, Jacobites, or Salvation Army Christians, apply to the Government for sanction before constructing any such buildings and if the Government see no reason to reject their proposal they grant the permission. There is no reason why one religion alone should be exempted; for that would be a source of trouble. The resolution is one that should be supported and the amendment is unnecessary."

The amendment of Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar was put to the House and negatived.

AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER No. 40.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I have to inform the House that Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai is the only candidate nominated for election to the Select Committee to consider Mr. Saldanha's amendment to Standing

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Order No. 40. I hereby declare the abovementioned gentleman duly elected under Regulation II(4) of the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote."

At this stage the House adjourned for lunch.

After lunch (2-30 p.m.)

CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS DEVOTED FOR RELIGIOUS WORSHIP—*cont.*

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The Council will now resume discussion on Mr. Ramachandra Reddi's resolution."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I think the hon. Mover of the resolution is not aware of the powers already possessed by the Government with reference to this matter. Under section 191 of the Madras District Municipalities Act there are regulations for the restrictions of the use of sites for buildings required for various purposes. The Government have, under the rule-making powers given under that section, framed rules empowering the Collector to regulate the construction of buildings for public worship and their extension. The wording of the rule is as follows :—'No site shall be used for the construction of a building intended for public worship if, in the opinion of the Collector of the district, the construction of a building thereon will wound the religious feeling of any class of persons ; provided that an appeal shall lie from the Collector's opinion to the Local Government who may issue such orders as they deem fit.' So, with regard to municipal areas, the Government now possess the powers that are sought to be brought into existence now by means of the recommendation of my hon. Friend the Mover of this resolution.

"With reference to rural areas which are under the control of the local boards, the Government do not at present possess similar powers. Section 199 (1) of the Local Boards Act does not at present give the Government powers to make rules similar to those which have been made under section 191 of the Madras District Municipalities Act. I do not know what the intentions of the framers of the District Municipalities Act were in making a distinction between municipal and rural areas. Perhaps they thought the circumstances will not be similar or that the same difficulties as might be experienced in municipal areas might not arise in rural areas. Possibly they thought that there would be difficulty in asking local boards to exercise supervision as it is done with reference to municipal areas. But whatever it be it seems to me that the matter is one that might be looked into and in view of all that has been said I am willing to go into the question and see whether similar rules should be brought into existence, with regard to rural areas, which can only be done by the Government amending the present Local Boards Act.

"I am glad that the amendment that was brought forward has been defeated. Because I would be very unwilling to make any distinction in this matter on the ground of religion. Whether it be a case of a Hindu temple, or a Muhammadan mosque or a Christian church obviously they ought to come under the same restrictions if such restrictions are framed. I hope the hon. Mover of the resolution will accept my assurance that I shall make enquiries as to what should be done with regard to rural areas with a view to amend the Madras Local Boards Act so that we might possibly take such powers as we do at present possess under the Madras District Municipalities Act."

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Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—" Mr. President, Sir, no doubt this resolution has been brought with very good intentions; but I am afraid that it is going to have just the opposite effect of the intention of the resolution. It says that whenever a temple or a mosque is to be extended, the discretion of the Collector is to be called in. The extension of temples and mosques are every-day occurrences. Populations have grown and so the temples and mosques require extension. When people apply for the extension of a temple or a mosque and the Collector refuses to give permission you will see that it would not be the Collector who would be blamed but the Hindu community in the case of a Muhammadan mosque and the Muhammadan community in the case of a Hindu temple. It will create a great deal of friction which is better to avoid.

* " So far as Christians are concerned I am sure there will be no such trouble. So far as Hindu temples and Muhammadan mosques are concerned, this resolution, if it is passed, is going to bring very great trouble. The hon. the Minister just pointed out that the Collector had certain powers; I think he has no power to prevent the extension of temples or mosques or churches; he would not be consulted in such cases. The powers of the Collector are not intended to be applied in the cases of extension of mosques or temples. They are intended to be exercised in the case of the building of a mosque in the midst of houses of Hindu community or of a temple in the midst of the locality of Muhammadan community. Those powers will not certainly apply to extension of mosques or temples. I think my hon. Friend would be well advised to leave things alone."

(Mr. Abdul Hye rose to speak.)

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—The hon. Member has already moved his amendment. He will not be given a chance of speaking again."

K. ABDUL HYE SAHIB Bahadur :—" I wish to oppose the resolution."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am sorry I cannot allow the hon. Member to speak again."

* Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" Sir, there seems to be a good deal of misunderstanding about this innocent resolution. I do not mean to insult any particular community. All I want is to secure peace and order between community and community. I feel that certain communities are oversensitive; I also feel that it would be unwise on my part to press the resolution. . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Does the hon. Member propose to withdraw the resolution? Then he is not entitled to make any remarks."

* Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—To give greater scope for discussion and consideration of this point in the country, I withdraw the resolution for the present."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

APPOINTMENT OF A SEPARATE DEPUTY INSPECTRESS FOR MUSLIM GIRLS' SCHOOLS.

K. ABDUL HYE SAHIB Bahadur :—" Sir, I beg to move that—

'*this Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken to appoint a separate Deputy Inspectress for all Muhammadan girls' schools in the Ceded districts.*'